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FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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THE CAT THAT CAUGHT A CROCODILE

And the Goats That Ate a Church

Although the width of the world separates Britain from Australia, ties between Motherland and Commonwealth are being strengthened by the increasing emigration from our shores. This is being borne out by the swollen postbags of the Australian mail. Among the CN's own post have come these entertaining stories of animal life "Down Under."

THE scene of the first story is laid in the Lake St Clair Reserve, a National Park and Game Reserve in Tasmania. Late one night in the depth of winter a forest ranger heard a knock on his hut door. Looking out, he saw a starved-looking wallaby in the snow. Taking the animal inside, he warmed it by his fire and gave it some bread-and-milk. When it seemed to have revived, he let it go.

Next night he heard knocks again and, peeping out, saw three wallabies in the snow—his friend had brought along two others! As soon as he opened the door the animals eagerly hopped in and gathered round the fire. They came for several nights, until the cold spell had passed.

AUSTRALIANS are great animal-lovers, as a baby penguin recently found to its advantage. It is not often that penguins arrive on the Australian coast, but this poor wail had been carried far from its Antarctic home by gales to Manly, a Sydney suburb. There it waddled ashore and wandered disconsolately into the streets. A somewhat astonished policeman encountered the mite, and to save it from dogs took it to the police station, where the youthful penguin was soon quite contented—and lively, too, as it ate scraps from the policeman's lunch-bags. Later it was taken to Taronga Park Zoo.

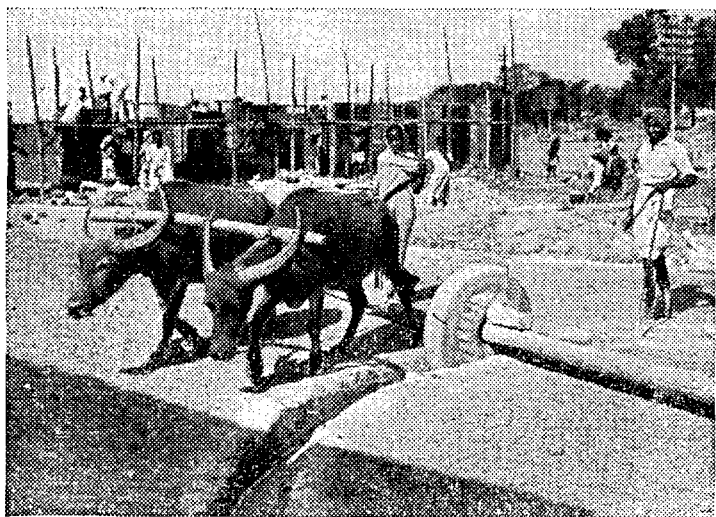
A STORY of a different sort is about the alarming python, the carpet snake, which is sometimes as much as six and a half feet long. Not long ago Queens-

land peanut farmers were suffering from a plague of mice which made merry in the stacks of peanuts waiting to be threshed. These jolly parties had to be stopped, and carpet snakes were chosen to be the spoil-sports. They were in great demand, farmers paying up to £1 for a carpet snake to put in their peanut stacks. There the snake, whose appetite for mice was as great as theirs for peanuts, was content to remain, doing good work in preventing much damage to the crops of nuts.

IN the matter of eating, however, the record is surely held by a herd of wild goats in Queensland. They had been, or were, the descendants of domestic goats that had escaped and become wild. These hungry goats ate a whole church at Thargomindah. Admittedly, the church was not a very solid building; it was a temporary structure of straw and dried grass, but the goats polished it off completely in one evening!

A TALE of a tough "moggie" comes from the Northern Territory, where a domestic cat loved to follow its master through the jungle. This redoubtable pussy scorned milk and preferred to catch pythons and big lizards called goannas. One day the cat's master saw it dragging a queer object towards his door, and found that puss had caught a young crocodile one foot long. This must be the only domestic cat in the world that ever caught a crocodile!

IN HYDERABAD



A pair of buffaloes haul a millstone round a circular trench to mix the mortar for a new building near Hyderabad City.

Migrants That Guided Columbus

ABOUT this time of year in 1492, when Christopher Columbus was nearing America on his first voyage, he saw the sky darkened by great flocks of birds; and as his lieutenant Vicente Pinzon said: "These birds know their business." They were land birds, and their business was to set out from the Eastern shores of America to fly south to seek a warmer land of plenty overseas. Columbus knew they must have come from land, and so, steering confidently in the direction from which they came, made his first landing in the New World.

Columbus, however, was not the first to take the birds as his guide. Noah, one of the earliest of all navigators, sent out bird scouts from the Ark to learn whether the waste of water had subsided. First he sent the raven without receiving reply, and then, at intervals of a week, the dove.

Finding Dry Land

The dove brought him at the second time of asking a leaf from an olive tree, and the third time came back not at all, so Noah knew it had found dry land, and left Mount Ararat to find it. The Babylonian story of the Flood describes the dove as the first, the swallow as the next, and the raven as the third of the explorers. The raven is the scout-in-chief in the Sagas of the Norsemen. It is the bird sacred to Odin and it led the hero Flaki to the Feroes.

But the Polynesian seafarers, who brave all the perils of the Pacific in their fragile double canoes, have made the most constant and perhaps the earliest use of the birds as their guides. They know their migrating seasons and their migrating routes, as they know the winds and the stars. Guided by the golden plover, they found the way between Tahiti and Hawaii.

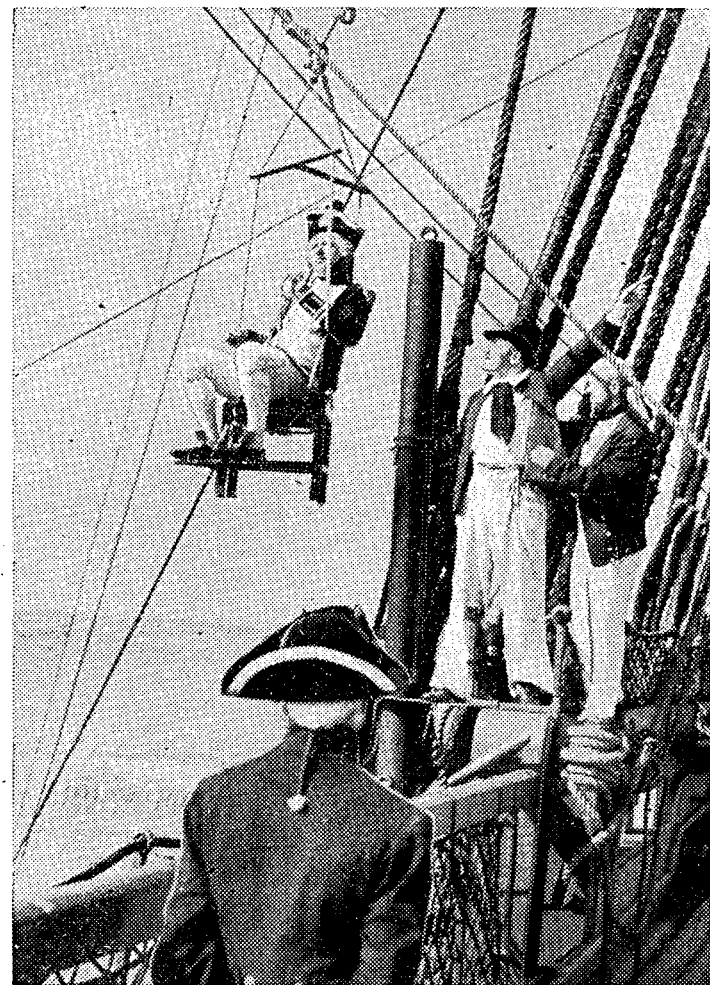
Trees That Menace the Soil?

SOUTH AFRICA has few good timber trees of its own, so fifty years ago a start was made with big plantations of gum trees, pines, and wattles. The gums were turned into mine props, the pines provided useful timber for building, and wattle bark was used for tanning leather.

Forestry experts, however, have now come forward with the charge that these trees are responsible for widespread soil erosion. Professor Cooper, of Rhodes University College, says that "Pines, gums, and wattles form hot, dry forests. They are destructive to bird and animal life. They do not produce moist, spongy soil but tend to make it friable and brittle and to increase the run-off during rains. Pine trees actually cause soil erosion."

The Union Forestry Department is not convinced that these trees poison the soil, but it has started an investigation.

THE CAPTAIN COMES ABOARD



Captain Hardy, commander of HMS Victory at Trafalgar, is hoisted aboard Nelson's ship in a bo'sun's chair—but in this picture he is really Lieutenant-Commander H. B. Spiller, playing the part of Hardy for a Navy film being made at Portsmouth.

Buried Treasure of a Lost Empire

THE finding of an urn containing some 500 silver Roman coins on a building site at Darfield, South Yorkshire, is a reminder that this sort of buried treasure has been coming to light for centuries.

Experts believe that practically all these burials date back to one period, and that they were prompted by a single cause. The date was about AD 418, when the Goths had newly invaded Rome, and it had become evident that if she were to survive she must call home all her fighting sons. A world empire was breaking up. The sun of learning and culture was sinking. The Dark Ages were about to envelope Europe.

About four centuries later, the Venerable Bede, having carefully gathered together all the evidence that survived of the Romans' 470 years of rule in Britain, wrote this:

AD 418. *This year the Romans collected all the treasures that were in Britain, and some they hid in the earth, so that no one has since been able to find them; and some they carried away into Gaul.*

Since Bede wrote that, there has been a stream of finds such as he supposed would never be made. But, it may be asked, why did the Romans leave their gold and silver hidden in foreign soil?

Firstly, knowing that they were going home to fight the barbarians, they could not be hampered with weighty treasure that they would almost certainly lose amid the hazards of travel and battle. Secondly, they expected swift victory over their despised enemies, and that they would be free to come back to Britain to resume life here and dig up their buried riches.

Not one of them imagined anything so fantastic as their money lying utterly lost for the next 15 centuries.

Half-an-Inch of Rain

RECENTLY there was a wet day in Britain. Not an uncommon occurrence, this would seem; but on this particular day the rain was quite exceptional, for it affected the whole of Britain—an average of about half-an-inch of rain over the whole country.

When we remember that an inch of rain equals 100 tons of water per acre we begin to realise what the total rainfall must have been on this day.

There are 640 acres in a square mile, so that half-inch of rain meant that 32,000 tons of water fell on every square mile of our land. As there are about 39,000 square miles in Britain, the total rainfall on this particular day must have been close on three thousand million tons of water.

WHERE EAST AND WEST ARE MEETING

WHILE the Assembly of the United Nations is meeting in Paris to survey world problems on the grand scale, a small group of experts are studying together at Geneva a matter which has for many years past affected, and for many years to come will affect, the common prosperity and therefore the peace of Europe as a whole.

At Geneva there will, of course, be yet another East-West discussion. But, unlike other talks between the two groups of Powers, this session of the Special Committee on Trade set up by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) will be devoted solely to the seemingly unexciting subject of commerce between the two parts of our Continent, and be based on a report recently issued.

Co-operation

The Eastern countries of Europe are not, as we know, taking part in the Marshall Plan. But as the smaller ones are usually more outspoken at commercial negotiations than at political meetings, an inkling may be given of their real feelings on co-operation with the West.

The Report makes out an excellent case for East-West co-operation, though certain claims and omissions seriously concern the Western Powers. Briefly, it states that Germany is to blame for the hopeless position of the East European countries in the period between the two wars. It was Germany alone which monopolised the trade in that part of the world and suppressed all national efforts at developing industries. The lack of industries in Poland and Bulgaria, for instance, prevented the towns from absorbing the surplus village population—with disastrous results for the standard of living of the whole nation.

Developing Industries

Now that Germany's economic power is gone there is a tremendous upswing of industrialisation in all parts of Eastern Europe. This, of course, means great demands for machinery, machine tools, precision instruments, power stations, and the thousand other things which must be obtained from abroad. The virtual removal of Germany from the world's great industrial markets means in turn that the only places where countries like Poland, Rumania, Bulgaria, or Hungary can obtain machinery are Britain, America, and, to a lesser extent, France, Belgium, and Holland.

In order to develop their industries, East European countries must by no means cease to be abundant producers of foodstuffs, timber, and other raw materials. On the contrary, greater food production has become even more necessary and urgent because (except for Poland which also has coal) agricultural products and timber are the only means whereby they can pay for the machinery and other capital goods from the West.

Whereas in the immediate future East European goods could, to a certain extent, ease the dollar stringency, when Marshall Aid ends in 1952, the sixteen European Recovery Plan countries will receive dollars only for what has actually been sold to America. Western Europe's long-range plans should therefore, declared the Report, prepare for the time when trade

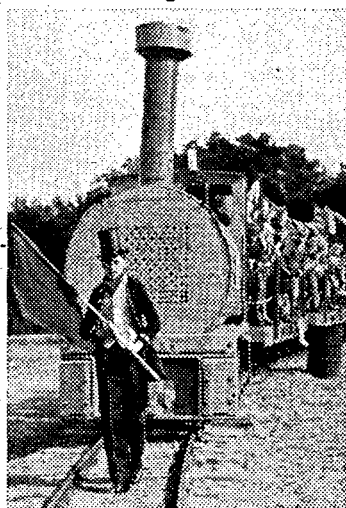
with the Eastern half of the Continent will be much more imperative than it is even now.

These are weighty arguments, but for this country another consideration arises.

Machinery and other forms of capital equipment are perhaps the most valuable commodities turned out by British industry. This is because capital goods help to produce consumer goods, including food. Now, there are today numerous projects which call for an increase of food production in many parts of the Empire—Africa, Australia, and New Zealand, for instance. These projects, too, require a great volume of machinery and machine tools which, if sold to Eastern Europe, would not be available to the Dominions. So in discussions like that at Geneva this country especially must give careful thought to the question of machinery exports before committing itself either way.

This goes to prove that, however urgent it may be to develop trade throughout Europe, at no conference must the needs and possibilities of other continents be overlooked.

Safety First



Visitors to a railway transport centre of the Royal Engineers in Hampshire were able to ride on this ancient-looking train, preceded by a man with a red flag.

Going With the Office

A TRAVELLING office, which goes to the various departments, has been installed in a large works in Czechoslovakia.

With the office staff in a particular room there is inevitable delay. Hence the travelling office, which is operated by pushing a button on a desk. It moves up or down like a lift to any one of the 14 floors of the building. The office is 24 feet square, and is equipped with both internal and external telephones. It is kept cool in summer and cosily warm in winter, for it is air-conditioned; and it has running water laid on by a special device.

There is no feeling of motion when it is working on a normal schedule, though it can be speeded up to 100 feet a minute when necessary.

A Great Family Gathering

NEARLY a hundred delegates from all the Parliaments in the Empire have arrived here for the first Parliamentary Conference of the British Commonwealth to be held since the war.

They are coming from 37 different Empire countries. Every land in the Commonwealth—including the Colonies—which has a Parliament is sending its representatives. The delegations will consist, generally, of the Prime Minister of each Parliament and leaders of the different political parties in it. The Premiers of all the Dominions are coming except South Africa which, however, is sending six delegates. India, Pakistan, and Ceylon will be represented, and from our own islands come representatives from Northern Ireland, Eire, and the Isle of Man—which has its own Parliament. Representatives are also coming from the local Parliaments of the Provinces of Canada and the different States of Australia. Two women are among the representatives.

Seeing For Themselves

The Conference is to open on October 18, but it is intended that first the delegates shall gain an impression of present conditions in Western Europe and in Britain. So at the beginning of this week the delegates left by air for Germany.

From Germany these Parliament men of the Empire will go to Belgium and Holland. From there they will travel to Scotland, Northern Ireland, and many cities in England and Wales, returning to London for the Conference, which will be held in the Grand Committee Room at Westminster Hall.

The meetings will go on for ten days, and many grave and important matters will be discussed, such as how the plan for Western Union—the closer linking of the countries of Western Europe—can be adjusted to the needs and loyalties of the British Commonwealth. Other vital problems to be discussed will be the German situation; Imperial Defence; and how the countries of our Commonwealth can develop trade among themselves in order to increase the prosperity of all the Empire lands.

Of course, this great gathering of Commonwealth democracy will be thinking and talking about our sister democracy, America, and when the London Conference is over, representatives from it are to go to Bermuda where, at another conference, they will meet delegates from the United States. This Bermuda Conference has been arranged by the British-American Parliamentary Group.

Our best wishes go out to these men, who speak for millions of our fellow citizens.

NOTTINGHAM'S PLAYHOUSE

NOTTINGHAM is to have its own theatre, run on a non-profit-making basis. The Little Theatre has been acquired by a Trust made up of local people, supported by the Arts Council.

It is hoped to produce classic plays of all countries, each of which will run for a fortnight. Thus Nottingham people will be able to see more than twenty of the world's classics in the course of a year.

WORLD NEWS REEL

KIND WORLD. Italy has sent 100 tons of rice to Yugoslavia for the children, and Poland is sending 1000 tons of beet sugar for children in Austria, Bulgaria, Finland, and Rumania.

A U.S. army transport vessel recently evacuated the inhabitants of Camiguin Island in the Philippines when the Hubokhibok volcano there erupted acidic ash and poisonous gases.

THE HAGUE WAY. The ownership by Britain or by France of two rocky reefs, the Minquiers and Ecrehou, south-east of Jersey, is to be decided by The Hague International Court.

By means of English-Speaking Union scholarships, 22 British public schoolboys have gone to the U.S. for one year's free board and tuition in American private schools, 24 American boys have come to Britain.

An anchor believed to be between five and eight centuries old was caught in nets by fishermen near Nieuport, Belgium.

The Emir of Abuja, who has come from Northern Nigeria for the African Conference which is now taking place in London, is extending his stay for three weeks after the Conference, which ends on October 13, in order to make an educational tour of England at his own expense.

HOME NEWS REEL

MORE FROM ULSTER. Food shipments from Ulster to the rest of the United Kingdom between 1938 and 1946 rose from £9,000,000 to £17,000,000.

One of the lots in a sale at Whitby was an embroidered jacket worn by George II.

In spite of the bad weather in summer this year, the Ministry of Agriculture estimates that the yield of wheat in Britain is roughly 500,000 tons more than 1947.

Mrs Emma May of Finchley made her first air trip on her 102nd birthday, and said "It was wonderful."

MISTAKEN IDENTITY. Insects sent to the Ministry of Agriculture this summer as Colorado beetle suspects ranged from ladybirds to coach-horse beetles.

A woman aged 70 won the British Women's Chess Championship not long ago. She is Miss E. C. Price, of Baron's Court, London.

The Government has decided that the rebuilding of central areas in the heavily-bombed cities shall begin next year.

Bucklands, a mansion with 80 acres of land near Bwlch, Brecon, has been given to the British Legion as a convalescent home for ex-Servicemen by Mr and Mrs M. H. Llewellyn.

YOUTH NEWS REEL

SEAGIRLS. Divided into 500 "crews," there are now in Great Britain 8000 Sea Rangers. This section of the Guide Movement is rapidly growing in popularity.

Famous people who, in their youth, were Boy Scouts are to appear in a new feature "Voice of Scouting" from Radio Luxembourg on Sundays at 1.30 p.m., beginning on October 10.

For the St John Ambulance Brigade Cadet Officers Conference just held at Buxton 200

Egypt imported nearly twice as many British as American cars during the first quarter of this year.

More than twice as many British immigrants as those of any other nationality are arriving in Australia. In the first six months of this year, out of 27,000 immigrants 18,000 were British.

FLAT OUT. A new world motor-cycle speed record of 150.855 m.p.h. was set up at Bonneville Flats, Utah, U.S.A., recently by Ronald Free of Hollywood, who lay prone on the un-cushioned rear fender of a British-built Vincent H.R.D. two-cylinder motor cycle.

The Fiji Gifts to Britain Committee have allocated £1000 for the purchase of food for distribution to British school-children.

VISITORS! When the aircraft carrier Magnificent and two Canadian destroyers visited Wakeham Bay on the Hudson Strait not long ago, there was great excitement among the inhabitants—one missionary and about 80 Eskimos. The destroyers later went on into Hudson Bay—the first Canadian warships ever to enter it.

French citizens are to be accepted as immigrants by the Canadian Government on the same conditions as those applying to British subjects and U.S. citizens.

When fire threatened the Salvation Army citadel at Southampton not long ago children sang "Onward Christian Soldiers" as they marched out.

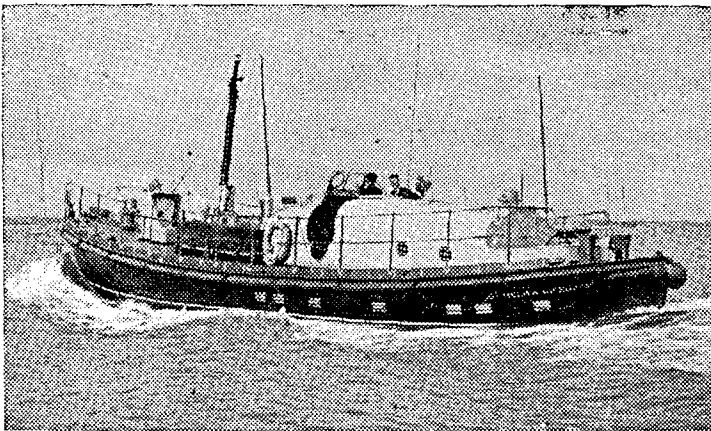
Alma Ransome, 16, of Norwich, recently heard that she had passed the Cambridge School Certificate for which she studied while in hospital lying face downwards in a special plaster bed, able to move only her head and arms.

STILL, SMALL VOICE. In 1947-48 the conscience money sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer amounted to £1453 4s, money sent by people who knew it was due from them but had not been asked for it.

Gypsum carried by rail from mines at Mountfield, East Sussex, during a recent fortnight amounted to 11,096 tons. Gypsum, or calcium sulphate, is used in great quantities for the manufacture of plaster boards.

CLOSING THE GAP. Britain's trade deficit (excess of imports over exports) with the whole world during the first half of this year was £140,000,000, an annual rate of £280,000,000. Last year the deficit was £630,000,000.

A six-month-old pullet at Tredegar recently laid a four-yolk egg that weighed three ounces.



New Type of Lifeboat

The new lifeboat for St Helier, Jersey, is the first to be fitted with a deck cabin, the whole superstructure being built of aluminium alloy instead of wood or steel, thus saving over a quarter of a ton of weight. She can take 95 on board, and has a cooking stove. Named the Elizabeth Rippon, the new lifeboat has cost about £18,000.

A WALL OF SAND

THE little village of Stanford in the Western Cape Province is fighting for its life. Five thousand sand dunes, impelled by ceaseless south-west winds, are advancing from the sea shore and threatening to engulf it.

A colossal wall, 100 feet high and two and a half miles long, is planned as a defensive barrier. The wall itself will be made of sand and planted with marram grass which holds the sand together in its long fibrous roots.

The Oily Herring

A HERRING-PROCESSING factory has just been opened at the Scottish fishing port of Wick, in Caithness which, it is hoped, will be the forerunner of others.

The purpose of the factory is to extract the oil from the body of the herring and make it serviceable for human use.

The herring is rich in easily-digestible oil, distributed in tiny globules throughout its flesh, so making the herring exceptionally valuable as a human winter food. Naturally, herrings differ from time to time in fat content, but it may be said generally that their flesh contains from 20 to 30 per cent of precious fat in the form of oil. So success to the Wick herring factory and its successors. There is a boundless stock of herrings to draw upon both for food and for the oil which can be extracted from them. The yearly herring harvest from the North Atlantic is estimated to represent 3000 million fish!

Land of Our Fathers

WELSH singers astonished Americans in Detroit not long ago; 3000 Welsh men and women from all parts of North America, as well as from Wales herself, had gathered there for a song festival, known in Welsh as Gymanfa Ganu.

Reporting the event, the Detroit News called it "astounding... because these were not professional singers. Neither were they rehearsed... with the New Welsh Hymnal before them, these 3000 unpretentious people performed complicated part-singing on the hair-line of accuracy; they attacked and released like a plucked string; they modulated to a whisper and rose to a harmonious tumult."

Wherever they may be, Welshmen pour out their hearts and glorify their faith in song.

Specs in a Hurry

"GOOD gracious! Mother's gone to America and left her spectacles behind!" exclaimed a lady in London not long ago. "She'll be lost without them!"

The situation was indeed serious. Mother had gone to Liverpool to sail in the liner Parthia to the US to settle there. Her daughter in London telephoned to the shipping offices, a taxi rushed with the specs to Euston Station, where they were handed over to the guard of a train going to Liverpool. It was arranged that a taxi should meet the train at Liverpool and take the specs to the docks. Just before the Parthia was due to leave a runner came up the gangway with Mother's horn-rims.

She adjusted her spectacles to see what was happening. "They must be an old pair I turned out when packing," she said.

TO COACH YOUNG ATHLETES

JACK HOLDEN, Britain's famous marathon and cross-country runner, will in future devote his time and energies to training Britain's young runners.

In becoming a coach, Jack Holden will join men like Sidney Wooderson, Lord Burghley, Harold Abrahams, and Harold Whitlock, all of whom are keeping an eye on our youthful athletes. The value of the experienced coaching of such men is indisputable. The success of the Finns in the recent Olympic Games was largely due to the valuable coaching of Paavo Nurmi, the greatest long-distance runner of all time.

A New College For Women

A COUNTRY house near Abingdon in Berkshire has been opened as a college by the National Federation of Women's Institutes. Purchased with money raised by Women's Institutes throughout the land and assistance from the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, it has been named Denman College in honour of Lady Denman, who has been Chairman of the federation for over 25 years.

Training at the college will cover many subjects, from citizenship and domestic crafts to gardening and literature; and it is hoped that lecturers from both Oxford and Reading will be able to visit the college.

YOUNG BRITAIN IN THE USA

FIVE young Britons, aged 11 and 18, have recently completed a six-week tour of the United States, sponsored by the English-Speaking Union. They had been selected for the trip for writing outstanding essays on: What I Want to See in America.

Four of them are from schools in this country and the fifth is an apprentice electrician at a colliery in Mansfield. Their tour began at New York. From there they went on to Boston, Chicago, Omaha, Denver, San Francisco, Amarillo in Texas, Nashville in Tennessee, Louisville in Kentucky, and Washington.

One of the party, Jock Bruce-Gardyne, aged 18, of Winchester College, said all of them, before going to the U.S., had a distorted idea about Americans formed from going to the cinema, but, he added, "We have received a wholly different impression about America from our travels and living in American homes."

SCHOLARS' SHIPS

THE Ship Adoption Society movement state that the crews of 1065 British Merchant ships now get regular letters from children of 832 schools who have adopted them. So keen are children to join this movement that it is now a problem to find enough ships to go round.

An Ancient Seaside Industry

A SMALL permanent exhibition now arranged on Castle Hill, Whitstable, calls attention to an ancient industry which once flourished there—the manufacture of copperas from iron pyrites.

Copperas, hydrated iron sulphate, is a mineral produced by the weathering of iron pyrites, and it was used chiefly for making black dye, paint, and ink. The iron pyrites was spread in clay pans to weather by the action of sun and rain. The liquor which resulted was pumped into lead cisterns and then concentrated by boiling in large leaden pans for several days. Afterwards it was conveyed to coolers, where crystals of copperas were deposited.

In 1599 twenty poor persons of Whitstable were employed to gather pyrites on the seashore, and further supplies were obtained by dredging. The first large manufacturer there was Thomas Mendfield of Faversham, in 1603. In 1769 there were 13 jetties used in this industry.

Their First White Men

NOT long ago a party of African children, in a remote area on the banks of the Zambesi, came running into their village shrieking with excitement. Goggle-eyed, they panted to the grown-ups that they had just seen men with white faces. They had heard of such queer men but had never seen any before in their lives, and perhaps some of them were inclined to put "white men" in the same category as very unbelieving European children put Father Christmas.

The approaching white men were a Southern Rhodesian health expedition, come to investigate an outbreak of smallpox in this back-of-beyond region. The news of their arrival

travelled quickly, and soon a crowd of curious children under ten were gathering round the visitors—some wondering if they dared touch them to see if they were real.

The people of this territory, north of the Wankie district, have hardly felt the impact of civilisation. They live an easy, simple life, fishing with spears and scaring hippos from their crops of maize. The women bedeck themselves from head to foot with a red-ochre mixture, decorate their hair with mud, and wear bamboo sticks through their noses.

However, they agreed to be vaccinated, and altogether the expedition thus gave protection to 2000 of these primitive folk.

REINDEER IN SCOTLAND

A PLAN for a new Scottish industry—the breeding and rearing of reindeer—is being considered. It will be put into effect next February, when two nomads from Lapland will bring 25 reindeer to the lonely Scorseig Peninsula in Ross-shire.

If the plan is successful the crofters of north-west Scotland may soon have herds of reindeer grazing on their fields.

Silent Trains?

RUBBER tyres for railway wheels are being tested in France. Engineers are working on six coaches mounted on special pneumatic tyres instead of the usual steel rims; and the wheels have the normal steel flanges to keep them on the line. It is anticipated that the life of the tyres will be 20,000 miles.

The coaches will, of course, be almost noiseless; there will be no "clicking" noises as the wheel passes over the rail joints or over points. The coaches are to be tested between Paris and Strasbourg, and British railway engineers will note the results with great interest.

AUSTRALIA CALLING

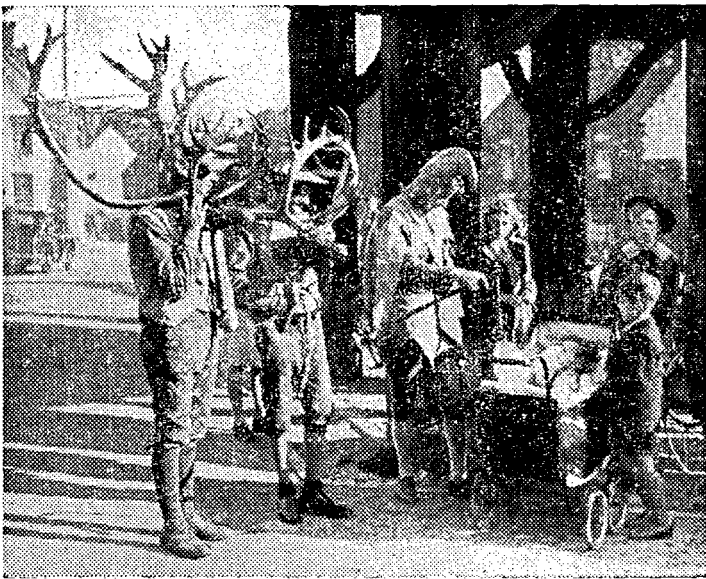
AN Exhibition called Australia and You is open, free, until October 9 at the Tea Centre, Lower Regent Street, London. It has been designed to give a general idea of life in Australia.

How Australia exports food and raw materials to Britain is shown, and the section dealing with immigration is illustrated with pictures of Australians-to-be on their voyage out, and settling down in their new home.

The Young Idea on the Links

The professional at Enfield Golf Club, Middlesex, is holding weekly classes for the sons and daughters of members, whose ages range from 5 to 15. Here we see some of the boys practising putting, while the professional holds the flag for them.





A Pause in the Dance

The ancient Horn Dance with reindeer antlers has been performed again in the Staffordshire village of Abbots Bromley, and in this picture a veteran dancer, Jim Fowell, is seen with his two sons, one of whom is talking to his two sons.

Women in Search of "The Ashes"

EARLY in October, 16 young women will be leaving Britain for Australia, to engage in battle for "The Ashes" of women's cricket.

In 1934 a team of English women cricketers visited Australia for the first time, and they won all their matches. Three years later Australia sent a team to this country and shared the Test honours.

The approaching visit to the Commonwealth is, we hope, to be a case of "third time lucky"; for our women were due to tour in 1939, but the war prevented it; last winter they were again ready to leave, but shipping accommodation could not be found for them.

Four of our team will be making their second trip "Down Under"—Miss Molly Hide, the captain; Miss Grace Morgan, a Civil Servant from East Sheen; Miss Myrtle MacLaglen, a brilliant all-rounder from Camberley; and Miss Betty Snowball, of Edinburgh, who, despite her tiny stature, is said to be the world's greatest woman wicket-keeper.

For more than 200 years women have been playing cricket, and there are now more than 200 teams in the English Women's Cricket Association. The game is almost as strong in Australia, and very big crowds will gather to see the three Test matches, to be played at Melbourne, Sydney, and Adelaide.

NEW ALL-BRITISH RAILWAY?

SIR PHILIP MITCHELL, Governor of Kenya, recently forecast a new all-British railway route from Southern Rhodesia to the Indian Ocean. At present the Colony's nearest outlet to the sea is through Portuguese East Africa (which is also known as Mozambique) to Biera.

Speaking at Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, Sir Philip said: "I confess to a very earnest desire to see the first Southern Rhodesian railway train reach the Indian Ocean at a point on the coast of East Africa. It will be an exciting moment when the head of the Pioneer Column debouches at long last

on the Indian Ocean, perhaps at Mikindani, perhaps at Dar es Salaam, by means of a great new railway which, I feel confident, will be constructed in the lifetime of most of us here today. That will add greatly to the strength, security, and stability of these lands."

Dar es Salaam and Mikindani are both in Tanganyika Territory. To reach them an all-British railway would have to be constructed west and north of Lake Nyasa.

Such a railway would link together and help to develop these vast rich British lands of Central Africa.

Davy Jones's Certificate

THE picturesque ceremony of Crossing the Line, or Equator, is nothing like as severe an ordeal as it is used to be, writes a C.N. correspondent who recently witnessed it during a voyage from England to Australia.

Before a novice can be enrolled as one of Father Neptune's Trusty Shellbacks, he has to make his obeisance before the Ruler of the Raging Main, in the presence of his Queen and Court, and then be lathered and shaved and tossed into the swimming pool. It is all grand fun. There is no tarring and feathering, nor of the brutal horseplay

endured by novices of other days. It is pleasing to receive a certificate from Davy Jones requesting and requiring in the name of His Majesty Neptune, Ruler of the Mighty Oceans, all those whom it may concern to allow the bearer to pass freely, without let or hindrance, and to afford every assistance and protection to which he is entitled by virtue of the Freedom of the Raging Main.

Many boys and girls who have emigrated with their parents are Trusty Shellbacks, and treasure Davy Jones's certificate as one of their most precious possessions.

ONE GOVERNMENT FOR ALL?

HE is a bold man who would think of Federating, that is, making a single state of, the whole world in its present conditions. Yet some 500 people from 30 nations attended the Second Congress of the World Movement for World Federal Government at Luxembourg the other day, and a C.N. correspondent was among them.

Federalists, he writes, see no hope for the world unless nations come to their senses and reduce their sovereignty. They boldly argue that Man has not yet devised a better means of stopping fighting between human beings than by putting them under one State. And what is true of two neighbouring villages—they say—should be true of any two places, even if one of them were in America and the other in India.

To achieve it some of them think that people in as many countries as possible should elect a sort of a world Parliament (with one "M.P." for each million inhabitants) to draft a world Constitution, to be submitted to national Governments for acceptance. Other Federalists hold that in the United Nations we already possess a nucleus of a World Government, and all that may be necessary is to alter its charter suitably.

There was at any rate a lofty symbolism in the selection of the tiny Grand Duchy for this Congress. The 300,000 Luxemburgers thus received the tribute of those who honour freedom of all nations for a resistance record second to none. Furthermore, a magnificent park along the gorge of the tiny River Petrouse marks the site of one of the strongest fortresses of the world, torn down 90 years ago by the Luxemburgers and replaced by flower beds. They are tired of war. And so are the hundreds of delegates who met here to think out ways of ending wars.

Seaweed Harvest

IN the past year the crofters of South Uist have gathered 6000 tons of seaweed for the seaweed factory at Orosay. Dozens of new products are now made from seaweed, including moulds for taking impressions for false teeth, custard powder, and uncrushable fabrics. Thus has the tangle of the Isles enabled the islanders of South Uist to regain their independence.

WORKERS' PARADE



The sheep-shearer is the fourth in our series illustrating the daily tasks of the people of Britain.

The Editor's Table

THE WAY AHEAD

THE way before us is still hard," said the King in an address to Parliament, "and it is only with courage and endurance and by intensifying our present efforts that we can, under God, overcome our difficulties and attain to that degree of prosperity and wellbeing for which we all hope." With those dignified words did King George re-affirm the difficult task confronting the nation; thus did he set the tenor of Britain's life during the coming months.

We are still ploughing our way through rough and stony ground, and many Hills of Difficulty lie between us and the spacious uplands of prosperity.

The way ahead still demands resourcefulness in the whole nation not merely to pull through the dangerous places but to win the right to live in what the King called "an era of peace, prosperity, and ordered progress." We are all soldiers in a peacetime army which will have much to endure, and must never relax its striving.

THE nation will need to display all its traditional qualities of patience, good humour, tolerance, and capacity for hard work; but something more, also. A new incentive is now needed throughout the nation. It is what we commonly call the "team spirit," or what Lord Moran recently referred to as "the good spirit of the battalion."

Our greatness both as a nation and as a power for good is dependent on the individual greatness of British people now—in their homes, in their workshops, and in their offices. Our individual response "within the battalion" will decide the speed and progress of the whole army.

The present urgent need of this team spirit has also been admirably stated by Mr D. C. Burgess, President of the London Master Builders' Association, in a timely little book (Two Sides or One Team?) calling for greater co-operation between employers and operatives. "Now of all times," he writes, "is it necessary for all British subjects to find brotherhood together. . . . We have slung hammocks together, we have shared trenches together, we have shared blitzes together. In those days we found fellowship in a common purpose. Have we no common purpose now?"

Team work, brotherhood, the spirit of the battalion—call it what we may—without it we shall fail to reach the goal.

THE way ahead is hard, but it is not dark. Our optimism is founded not on easy hopes and dreams but on the character, grit, and essential unity of our people when summoned to what Cromwell called "an engagement very difficult." Upon our bearing depends not only our own future but, very largely, the future of the whole world.

Science an Aid to Faith

"So far from conflicting with religion, science will strengthen it," said Lord Samuel in a recent address.

He continued: "Our latter-day knowledge, unveiling a universe around us and within us that was always there but hitherto unseen and unknown, has revealed an organic whole, harmonious and majestic, beyond the conception of earlier ages. . . . What a theme is there for the poet, and what a text for the preacher; for that is not to undermine religion."

"By helping to simplify, purify, and enlarge our conceptions of the cosmos and of deity, science may join in offering to modern man a faith that can satisfy his emotions and justify his innermost beliefs without offending and alienating his intellect. That is to exalt religion."

THE DRAGON-SLAYER

MICHAELMAS, or the Feast of St Michael and All Angels, which is on September 29, commemorates St Michael the Archangel, leader of the Heavenly Host.

Like our own St George, St Michael was a dragon-slayer, and in the Book of Revelation we read: "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon fought with the angels."

It used to be said that if a church were on a hilltop, like St Michael's Mount, it would almost certainly be dedicated to this saint; in actual fact, this is not so, and of the hundreds of churches dedicated to St Michael in this country as many can be found in the flat lands as on the hills.

JUST AN IDEA

As John Stuart Mill wrote, *He who knows only his own side of the case knows little of that.*

Under the E

A MAN says he would like to go to Scotland but cannot manage the railway fare. He should take sandwiches with him.

IN a recent by-election a candidate headed his Address: "What I Stand For. Presumably to get a seat."

A SCHOOLGIRL says her father is a man of standing. Perhaps mother sends him to stand in the queues.



A COMMERCIAL traveller says he judges hotels by their breakfasts. Do they usually save their bacon?

THINGS SAID

a man is healthy in mind and body he is content; if is content you get efficient production; and if you have efficient production you get social security. *Lord Moran*

PARENTS are very important and without them we should be out of jobs.

The Minister of Education, to teachers

WILL live and die in the old-fashioned belief that we are the King's lieges wherever we are in the British Empire.

Mr Menzies, former Australian Premier

THE stomach is a surer test of character than the heart; and the self-discipline displayed by the British people is the admiration of the whole world.

Dr Edith Summerskill

Waiting to be Teachers

SOME weeks ago the C N wrote of the disappointment of some 10,000 men candidates to become teachers, whose courses at the Emergency Training Colleges had to be postponed from periods of from six to 12 months, owing to the necessity of first training more women teachers for the infant schools.

This postponement meant financial hardship for some of the candidates who are married and have children. Now comes the good news that special allowances will be paid to men with family responsibilities during the additional waiting period. This was announced recently by the Minister of Education.

The Government have acted wisely in this matter, for nothing must be done that will discourage those who are to have the vital task of educating our future citizens.

AUTUMN HARMONY

THERE is a harmony in Autumn, and a lustre in its sky, which thro' the summer is not heard or seen— as if it could not be, as if it had not been. *Shelley*

Editor's Table



PETER PUCK
WANTS TO KNOW

If shopkeepers make
counter suggestions

PROFESSIONAL runner says he trained on sandwiches. He could need a lot to cover the course.

FAMOUS journalist says he was always at the foot of his class. Perhaps he got a kick out of it.

TIGRESS answering to the name of Tilly has been lost in Florida. Most people would prefer it not to answer.

SOME Women's Institutes are considering what steps to take to make old people happier. Might be better if they took a car.

Over-Specialisation

WHILE sounding a note of warning on the modern tendency to over-specialisation in science, Professor John Read told the British Association the other day of the remarkable case of the 18th-century scholar Richard Watson, of Cambridge—in turn professor of mathematics, chemistry, and divinity.

Professor Read might also have mentioned Francis Bacon and his famous avowal: "I have taken all knowledge to be my province." Bacon set himself with ardour to the mighty task of arranging in sections the whole field of human knowledge. Bacon failed to complete his ambitious work, but the very fact that he could even attempt such a project shows how immeasurably the scale of human knowledge has widened since his day.

In our time, specialisation has reached such a pitch that workers in one branch of a science very often can scarcely understand the researches of workers in its other branches—and this produces men with a narrowing outlook.

Professor Read's suggested remedy of the problem is the right one—to lay the firm foundations of wider interests at school. We may not aspire to the exalted ambition of Francis Bacon, but broad-based education can fit us to take a worthy place in the world of today.

TIME MACHINE

NOW that flying-men have burst through the mysterious faster-than-sound barrier, they are talking confidently of speeds greater than 1100 m.p.h.

When it becomes possible to travel across our planet at this velocity we shall be playing uncanny tricks with time. With even higher speeds we should have a man lunching in London at noon and then flying to New York in time for breakfast the same morning.

Airlines may one day have time-tables in which west-bound planes appear to arrive hours before they depart.

Drake was pictured by a poet as the Sun's "fellow-traveller," but flying travellers of the future may outstrip Old Father Time himself, and leave all the poets at a loss for words!

October Lore

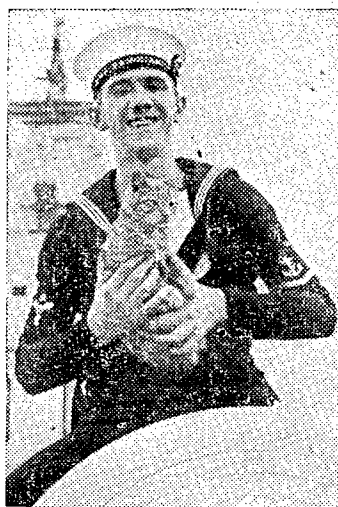
FULL moon in October without frost,
No frost till full moon in November.

ONION's skin very thin,
Mild winter coming in;
Onion's skin thick and tough,
Winter coming cold and rough.

THE farmer shall prognosticate great dearth of cattle, if he sees that the leaves of the elm tree and peach tree do fall before their time.

WHEN the peacock loudly bawls,
Soon we'll have both rain and squalls.

WHEN birds and badgers are fat in October, expect a cold winter.



Shipmates

A leading stoker with Ginger, one of the ship's cats on HMS Vanguard, the battleship in which the King and Queen will visit Australia and New Zealand next year.

Young Robin Hood on Ilkley Moor

A SCENE which recalls the story of Robin Hood winning the silver arrow at Nottingham was enacted not long ago at the lofty village of Ben Rhydding on Ilkley Moor when a young Lancashire bowman, Michael John Leach, aged 12, stepped forward to take his turn at an archery competition there. For six months he had been taking a correspondence course in archery, and this was his first attempt to shoot in public.

It was indeed a bold attempt, for the competition was for the Scorton Silver Arrow, one of the most important prizes in British archery. It is an ancient prize and can be traced back to 1673, but the competition for it is probably much older. It takes its name from a Yorkshire village.

People at Ben Rhydding smiled good-humouredly as young Michael drew his big bow. But the smiles soon turned to looks of astonishment, for he won the coveted Scorton Arrow.

SEA BIRD OF THE WEST

MR JACK ELDER, a former schoolmaster turned film producer, recently sailed from Glasgow to Copenhagen in his converted air-sea rescue launch, Eun Mara au Lar (Sea Bird of the West), which will be a Scottish shop-window during his ten-month tour of Denmark as guest of the Danish Council.

Besides lecturing, showing British films, and studying Danish filming methods, he will endeavour to interest visitors to his boat in Scottish products and Scottish art and music. Scottish art is represented by a series of paintings on cabin walls, and the boat also has a library of Scottish literature and gramophone records of folk songs and music. The products include the silk tartan curtains on the 22 windows, upholstery, and general furnishings made in Glasgow.

DON'T LOSE YOUR CAMEL

IF a man loses a camel in Paris it will cost him 150 francs (1s 6d) a day until it is claimed. This is one of the items in a list just published by the city's lost property office. Camels cost the same as mules; horses. Swans and parrots cost a mere 15 francs a day.

Rounding Cape Bojador

IN spite of all the fears as to what might happen when a plane piloted by man exceeded the speed of sound, American and British pilots have come through the ordeal unscathed. The feat might be compared with that of the old Portuguese navigators who first rounded Cape Bojador on the west coast of Africa, beyond which, said the ancients, were terrors unknown!

John Derry is the hero of the first British aeroplane flight at a speed exceeding that of sound, which at sea level is 760 miles an hour, decreasing to 660 miles an hour at a height of 40,000 feet. In his de Havilland research aircraft he ascended from Hatfield and, having reached a height of between 30,000 and 40,000 feet, put his machine into a steep dive. His speed of 675 miles an hour exceeded the speed of sound at that altitude. He landed after a flight of 35 minutes, with neither himself nor the machine one whit the worse for the great adventure.

Thus the gallant Derry passed the atmosphere's Cape Bojador. Science had assumed that, travelling at the rate of sound, an aeroplane might break up and collapse or the pilot lose control of himself and his machine. Nothing at all terrifying happened; Cape Bojador had been safely passed.

Beyond the Cape

The real Cape Bojador is on the west coast of Africa. When, during the 15th century, the great pioneer Portuguese navigators were timidly feeling their way down that unknown, and therefore terrifying, shore, they were led to believe by the learned and pious that any man who

ventured south of Bojador would be burnt black by Providence; while if he yet lived and dared to go still farther south, he would be consumed by the Sun's rays coming down to Earth there in liquid flames. But courage and a noble curiosity prevailed; men rounded, not only Cape Bojador, but the Cape of Good Hope as well, and ultimately reached India by sea, unsinged and unscathed.

The Conquerors

Cardinal Borgia had a map showing the 15th century travellers where demons were reputed to await them on their journeys, but men still travelled in spite of the supposed menace of imaginary evil spirits.

The world since those times has been conquered for knowledge by many predecessors of our modern pilots, men who, taking their lives in their hands, explored not only forbidden lands but deadly diseases to find a cure, men who risked torment and death to secure the means of healing sufferers.

Derry joins an ancient illustrious company, all of whom have wagered safety, comfort, and existence itself to extend learning and increase the happiness, welfare, and prosperity of their generation.

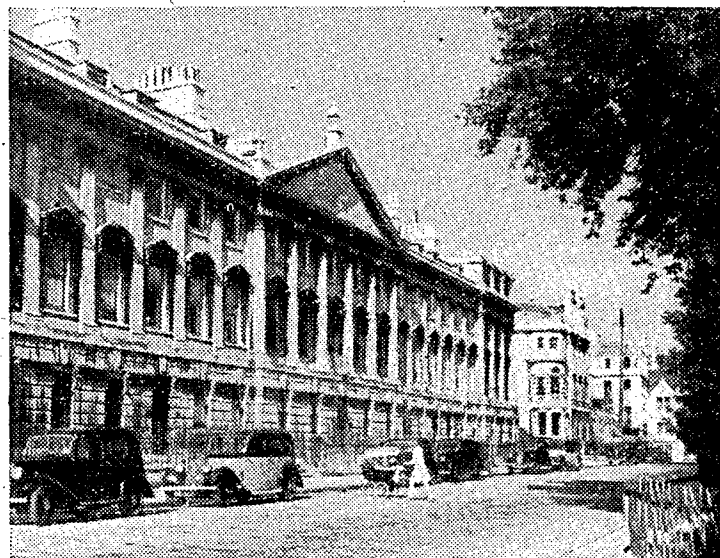
PICASSO'S NEWEST PUZZLE

IN the galleries of the Arts Council of Great Britain, St James's Square, are fifty new lithographs by Picasso which set a new puzzle about that lively genius. Is he the artist whose drawings of two or three eyes, a comb and a gridiron, and labelled as a woman, brought cultured people in crowds to the Victoria and Albert Museum to explain to one another why he thought so? Or is he the gay entertainer who this year, as noted in the C N, drew the cat and the dog, the ball, and Red Riding Hood's wolf with so deft a fancy that they might have been a bedtime story for the children?

Here in St James's Square is the answer. He is both at once. Here is a young woman's face,

pretty or plain—as we might find it; and next to it is the face caught out of focus with two eyes on top of one another and a new nose thrown in. Or again here is a ram's head so skillful that it appears ready to butt the spectator; and not far away are pigeons so strange that we have to take the word of the catalogue for them; and then an owl about to hoot alongside something that might be a camera.

More venturesome are two drawings of an episode in the life of King David; a Centauress with her skeleton, and many other odd things from stone jugs to turtle doves, which, though they may leave us guessing, are well worth the seeking of the answers for ourselves at the Arts Council.



THIS ENGLAND

Georgian houses in a square at Bath

Norfolk Island Paradise

SUB-TROPICAL Norfolk Island, a lonely paradise some 900 miles north-east of Sydney, is to become a holiday resort for the people of Australia. The Commonwealth Government, by whom the island is administered, is planning to spend £60,000 on providing essential services of a modern resort.

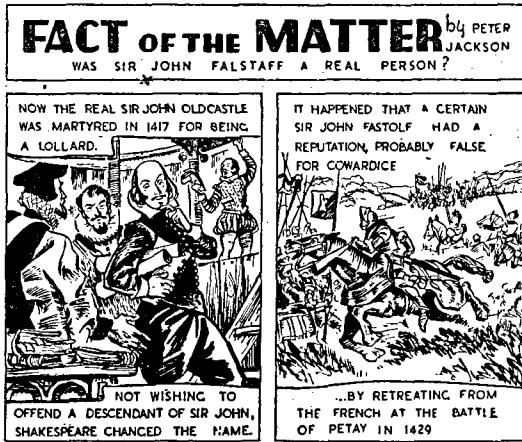
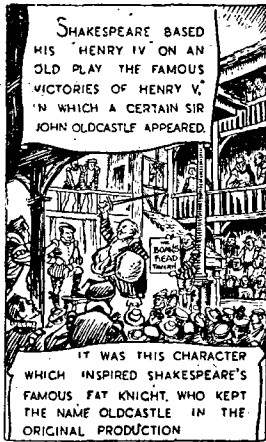
Discovered by Captain Cook in 1774, Norfolk Island has long been a forgotten, remote, but happy spot on the globe. Some five miles in length and three in breadth, its area is only 8258 acres, and it has about 20 miles of coastline. When Captain Cook found the island, it was thought that its towering pines would make excellent ships' masts, while the flax growing wild in the fertile valleys would make good canvas. But knots in the pines and the low quality of the flax eventually proved these hopes to be false.

Bounty Mutineers

After nearly a hundred years of unsettled conditions, Norfolk Island began a more normal life in 1856, when 190 people from Pitcairn Island, 3750 miles to the east, were transferred to the island by the British Government. Though 40 of these eventually returned to Pitcairn, the rest stayed. From these—descendants of the mutineers of the *Bounty* and their Tahitian wives—have sprung most of the island's present population of some 800 people.

With its mild, healthy climate, rich, fertile soil, and splendid scenery, Norfolk Island has much to offer visitors and residents alike. Vegetables and fruits, including bananas, lemons, oranges, figs, pineapples, and passion fruit, grow abundantly, while fish of all kinds swarm in the surrounding waters of the Pacific Ocean.

Most attractive of all, perhaps, is the fact that income tax is only £2 a year. This small sum is payable only by men between 21 and 55, and then only as an alternative to contributing nine days' work a year without payment.



IS THE EARTH BECOMING WARMER?

DURING the last twenty years scientists in the Arctic have been able to observe an interesting phenomenon—the southern border of the ice-fields has receded considerably towards the north. The temperature has risen, and fishes and other living things of warmer waters have steadily advanced northwards.

Russian scientists are specially interested in this. Professor N. M. Knipovich has stated that the waters of the Barents Sea have been getting warmer since the beginning of the century. The ice on the rivers in the north of

Soviet Russia breaks up much earlier, and the rivers freeze over much later than in previous years.

A hundred years ago the explorer Schrenck described how the inhabitants of Mezen, in the White Sea area, had to dig their wealth from a soil frozen the whole year through. Yet a recent expedition found no trace of frozen soil in the whole of Mezen. The frontier of the eternal ice had receded 25 miles northwards. Formerly salmon were unknown east of the Barents Sea, while now they appear, together with cod and herring, in the Kara Sea.

This phenomenon of warmer conditions has been observed over the whole Earth. The temperature has risen not only in Europe and North America, but in the Southern Hemisphere as well. This increase is also perceptible at considerable heights as well as on the plains.

What is the reason for it? Up till recently it was believed that the increasing warmth of the Arctic was due to the increased influence of the Gulf Stream, but this does not explain the rise in temperature of areas far from that influence. The theory has been put forward that the rise in temperature is mainly due to a very important increase in the movement of our atmosphere, which may be caused by a change in the physical conditions anywhere on the Earth, not only in the north. It may be due to an increase in solar warmth received by the surface of the Earth.

The quantity of solar energy absorbed by the Earth can be stepped up by increased emanation of heat from the Sun or by the greater receptiveness of cosmic space or the atmosphere of the Earth. In the period following each Ice Age there was a similar sudden period of summer temperatures considerably higher even than those of our time.

Scientists are therefore unable to say whether we are witnessing the beginning of a new climatic period or whether it is an atmospheric change which may last only a few years.

Queer Creatures in Church

RECENTLY the CN wrote of church-going birds, and now a missionary correspondent, the Revd W. Harvey, tells us of some odd creatures that attended his church in British Honduras.

In that country owls, for some reason, come into the city during the rainy season and the people have a superstition that if an owl perches on a tree in someone's yard, it is a sign of an impending death in the family. In consequence, there was excitement and consternation among the congregation in the Revd Harvey's church one Sunday when an owl solemnly flew in as he was preaching and perched in front of the choir gallery at the far end of the church.

There the owl sat looking very wise and apparently listening to

the sermon. Then—as though it wanted to hear better—it came and rested on the rostrum by the preacher's side. It stayed there quietly for some minutes before it flew out of the building. Happily, the superstition proved false for nothing serious occurred to the choir or clergyman.

On another Sunday morning three or four crabs crawled up the 13 steps leading to the church and, creeping under a pew near the door, remained there motionless during the service, the occupants of the pew being blissfully unaware of their crustacean companions! After the service our correspondent saw the crabs making their way down the steps. He could only conclude that they had been attracted by the music and the singing.

Budgerigars Barred

A PASSENGER arriving recently at Northolt Airport with two budgerigars among his possessions was grieved to find the birds immediately confiscated by the authorities. This was due to the enforcement of one of many laws for preserving human health and life.

Budgerigars, pretty little warbling creatures with a screech and a squawk, are members of the parrot family, and, like all birds of that group, have been found liable to a dreadful and fatal malady called psittacosis—parrot disease. A stricken parrot can infect human beings as well as other birds; even a person who has never been in contact with a parrot may be fatally infected by one who has.

Nobody knows where the disease originated, but about 20 years ago there was a dreadful epidemic of it in Argentina; men, women, and children suffered equally with the parrots. The result was that Britain banned every member of the parrot-tribe from her ports.

Fortunately, we had immense numbers of the parrot family safe and healthy here, especially of budgerigars which, given healthy surroundings and the right kind of food, multiply here as freely as canaries. Here they are safe from infection, provided no tainted birds are introduced into their company.

Sardines and Sea Monsters

SEA monsters are blamed for the disappearance of sardines from the waters of the Indian Ocean off the Durban Coast.

Local fishermen say that giant squids, using the sardines as bait, head them off into the deeper waters in the south and then attack the big game fish that follow the sardines.

However, geologists give another reason for the disappearance of the sardines. They argue that the warm Mozambique current that washes the Natal coast is extending south as a result of an earthquake in 1932, carrying sardines with it into deeper seas.

Molière's Amusing Story of THE IMAGINARY INVALID, Told in Pictures



When Beline entered the room, her husband, Argan, was pretending to be dead. Béralde was hiding behind a curtain, and Toinette was crying bitterly. "Oh, Madame, your husband's dead," she said sorrowfully. "He has just now departed in my arms." Beline was exultant. "Heavens be praised!" she cried. "Now I am delivered from a grievous burden. What a fool you are to be so afflicted at his death."



"What loss is there in him?" continued Beline. "A wretch, troublesome to everyone, a disgusting fellow, always snivelling and coughing; a stupid, wearisome, ill-natured animal, continually worrying people, and scolding night and day. Come, Toinette, let us take his keys; there are papers and money I want. It is not reasonable that I should pass the prime of my life with him and get no benefit."



Then, to her horror, Argan suddenly sat up and exclaimed: "I'm very glad to have seen the value of your love, and to have heard all your fine sayings about me. It's a very good lesson, which I shall profit by for the future." Beline fled, and Béralde stepped out from the curtain, glad that his opinion of his brother's second wife had been confirmed. Toinette's ruse had indeed succeeded.



"I hear your daughter coming," said Toinette. "Place yourself as you were and let us see how she receives the news of your death. You can learn in this way what your family really think of you." She knew that Angélique was being badly treated; Argan intended sending her into a convent if she would not marry Dr Diafoirus, and Angélique was in love with another young man, Cléante.

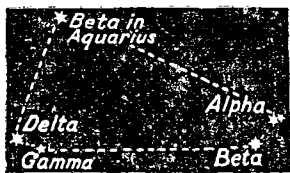
How Will Angélique Behave on Seeing Her Father? See Next Week's Instalment

CAPRICORNUS THE SEA-GOAT

THE interesting constellation of Capricornus, the Sea-Goat, may now be observed stretching across the southern sky, and at a low altitude, between eight and ten o'clock of an evening. Its chief stars are not very bright, but will be easily recognised from the accompanying star-map, extending a long way to the south-east of Aquila, described in the C.N. of September 18.

This curious horned Sea-Goat, with its fish-like tail instead of hind legs, is present in the most ancient records of Babylonia, symbolising the coming of the rainy season.

The chief stars of Capricornus are of special interest, particularly the brightest, Beta-in-Capricornus, which is a multiple-sun system composed of four suns,



Chief Stars of Capricornus with Beta-in-Aquarius as guide

two of them being perceptible through binoculars. They are 84 light-years' distant, or about 5,316,000 times farther than our Sun. The larger and yellowish star is composed of two suns which together radiate nearly 30 times more light and heat than our Sun. The smaller of these, which is revealed spectroscopically, revolves round the larger like a great fiery planet, once in 3 years and 283 days, at an average speed of about 14 miles a second, the distance separating them averaging 239 million miles. The other smaller star, which is visible through the binoculars, is a sun radiating only about twice the light of our Sun; it has also a planetary companion sun which radiates only about one-twentieth the amount of light our Sun does.

Alpha-in-Capricornus can be seen with the naked eye to be composed of two stars, known as Alpha 1 and Alpha 2; they may be seen splendidly through glasses. They are about 251 light-years' distant from us, and appear to be "companion" suns speeding through space very far apart.

Solitary Gamma

Far away to the left is Delta-in-Capricornus, appearing about as bright as Beta and actually composed of two suns which together radiate about 13 times more light than our Sun. They are therefore not very much larger than our Sun and, being only a little more than a million miles apart, they whirl round in their orbits in about a day. They are distant from us about 50 light-years. Gamma is about 192 light-years' journey away and is a very much larger but solitary sun. Beta-in-Aquarius is included in the star-map to help in the identification of the other stars.

THE planets Venus and Saturn will appear in close proximity on the morning of Friday, October 8, a distance of about twice the apparent width of the Moon separating them. They will provide a remarkable spectacle with the bright star Regulus appearing a little way to the right. From about 3.30 to 4.30 a.m. will be the best time to look, in the south-east sky. G.F.M.

Problem of Italy's Old Colonies

THE difficult question of the future of the former Italian colonies in Africa is again to the fore, representatives of the British, French, United States, and Soviet Governments having met in Paris and referred it to the United Nations.

By far the biggest of these colonies is Libya, the huge slice of African territory between Egypt and French Tunisia. But although Libya is five times the size of Italy itself, it is mostly desert and has a population of less than a million. The small part of it where crops can be grown—along the Mediterranean coast—is only about twice the size of Italy. Behind are those grim, arid regions well known to our soldiers of the Eighth Army who, victorious at Alamein, fought across them in the war.

There are no rivers in Libya, and when the hot summer winds blow from the Sahara the temperature, even in the coastal area of Tripolitania—the western part of the country—reaches over 122 degrees Fahrenheit.

Italy obtained Libya in 1912 after a war with Turkey. The Italians wanted the country for strategical reasons. Britain then controlled Egypt and the Suez Canal; France had acquired Algeria, Morocco, and Tunis; so Italy felt that she too must gain a foothold on the opposite shore of the Mediterranean.

Britain's Pledge

Libya, however, proved no easy prey, because the Italians were bitterly resisted by the Senussi, a curious Moslem sect who came from Cyrenaica, the eastern part of Libya, and ruled in the scattered desert oases. The Senussi practise a kind of Moslem puritanism and avoid dancing, music, tobacco, coffee, and alcohol. They helped us in the Second World War and we gave them a pledge that they should never again be placed

under the rule of the Italians.

It was not until 1932 that the Italian Fascists, by sadly brutal methods, at last subdued the Senussi, and then began colonising Libya in earnest. They reclaimed marshes, sank artesian wells and irrigated parched land, and built a fine road, 1100 miles in length, along the whole coastline. Every family of new Italian settlers who arrived found a house fully furnished for them in a new village, and a small holding of 60 to 70 acres with the land already ploughed. But Mussolini threw all these promising beginnings to the winds when he wantonly plunged his country into the war.

Land and Water

The main industries of Libya are agriculture and fisheries. The people grow wheat, barley, vegetables, oranges, dates, olives, figs, vines, and other fruits. In some places they graze sheep and cattle. At sea, sponge fishing and tunny fishing are their chief occupations.

Italy's other colonies awaiting international decision are Eritrea and Italian Somaliland. Eritrea, on the Red Sea coast, was considerably developed by the construction of roads and railways, irrigation works, and so on. The future of Abyssinia, also developed by Italian immigrants, is not now a serious problem, having been restored to the nation from whom Italy had ruthlessly seized it.

Placed as all these countries are on the sea route to the East, their future control by peace-loving agencies is a vital necessity.

YOUNG BANDSMEN

THIS Saturday, October 2, nine boys' brass bands will compete at Belle Vue, Manchester, for the open Junior Brass Band Championship of Great Britain. There will be scenes of great excitement at Belle Vue, for a crowd of the supporters of the young bandsmen—and women—will be there to encourage the players, all of whom are accomplished musicians, some of them having started their brass-band careers at 8 or 9.

Among the bands are the Bradford Victoria Boys' Band which, founded in 1941, in its first few months raised over £100 for the Bradford Children's Hospital. From North London goes the Brecknock Silver Band which includes several girl players.

One of the most famous of young bands, the Besses Boys' Band, cannot compete this year because they have won the Junior Championship three times in succession. This band is the junior counterpart of the celebrated Besses of the Barn Band of Whitefield, Manchester, which is over 100 years old. The junior section was founded during the war.

The nine bands will compete not only for the Championship but for the Daily Herald Championship Bow, which carries with it a cash prize of £50. Mr J. A. Greenwood's "Knights of Old" is the competition "piece."

BSA facts on STRENGTH, SPEEDINESS AND SMARTNESS



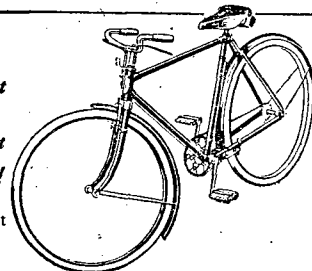
STRENGTH C. I. Thornton, famous County cricketer, made several hits of 150-160 yards.



SPEED The Cheetah, probably the fastest of all animals, is used in India and Persia for hunting antelopes and other game.



SMARTNESS At the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, the King's Dirk is awarded to the best all-round cadet. Smartness scores points, of course!



It's strong, it's speedy and it's smart

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The pride of any schoolboy's heart

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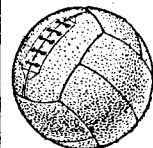
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and with our Youth Organisations we are doing our utmost to build up our boys and girls for the place they must take later as responsible citizens. Will you please help us? We sorely need your aid. Address:

The Rev. RONALD F. W. BOLLON, Supt., THE EAST END MISSION (Founded 1885), Bromley Street, Commercial Road, Stepney, E.1.

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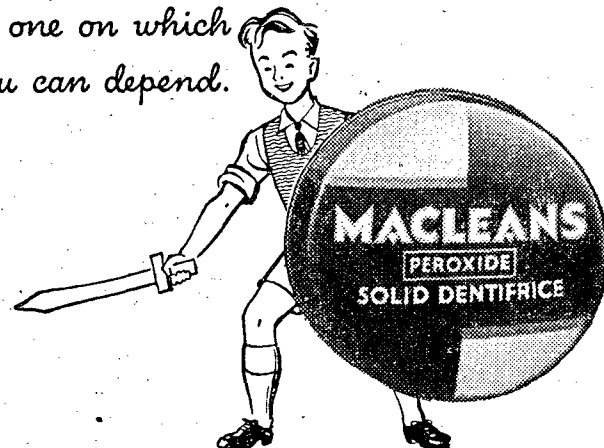
NAZEX SIGNALLING DEPT., 28, ST. ANTHONY'S PLACE, BLACKPOOL

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35 selected stamps: large pictorials from Falkland Deps., Ceylon, Kenya, S.W.A., Brunei, Br. Guiana, Cayman Is., Gambia, Gold Coast, also Poland (Wellington Bomber), Australia 9d, S. Africa 1½, 5 Canada War, Bohemia Hitler, Burma, Sudan, Siam, Java (Jap-Occupation), etc.

Price 1/6. Postage extra. Lists 1d. WRIGHT'S STAMP SHOP, Palace Street, Canterbury.

To shield their teeth
this solid friend
is one on which
you can depend.



A safeguard and a safe choice Macleans Solid Dentifrice, does wonders to youngsters' teeth. You get a lovely big tin for 9d, which is just as well as children go for it in a big way.

In tins 9d.
(inc. Tax)

THE BRAN TUB

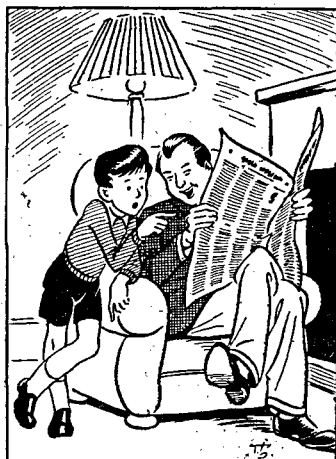
FAME

HE was applying for a job. "What is your name?" asked the boss. "William Shakespeare, sir," came the reply. "And a very well-known name, too," remarked the prospective employer. "It should be, sir," said the applicant. "I've been in this trade since I left school."

VERY ODD

THERE was an old man of Devices Whose actions were full of surprises. He wore on his head, Three loaves of stale bread, Trimmed with toadstools of all shapes and sizes.

RODDY



"Look, it says he's in a class by himself. Does that mean he's been kept in after school?"

BEDTIME CORNER

House Wanted!

"CRACKLE my claws!" cried the Hermit Crab. "I must find another shell to live in. I've grown so big that this one is much too tight!" And off he went hunting along the line of rubbish left by the tide.

Cockle and razor shells he found in plenty, but they were the wrong shape to make a house for him. At last, unhappy and uncomfortable, he rested underneath a tangle of seaweed.

"If only I had armour-plating on my tail as I have on my legs and claws," he exclaimed, "I wouldn't need a house to protect me from my enemies!"

Just then he heard a boy say: "See if there are any shells under that weed." And before he could move a big wooden spade scooped the seaweed off him.

"Only another whelk shell," the second boy cried, noticing only Hermit Crab's house and not his legs, hidden in the sand. "We've got a bigger one already in the bucket."

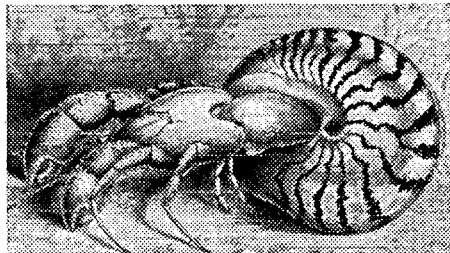
"I don't believe it is," his brother argued. "Let's measure them."

But by the time they had

sorted out the other whelk shell from those in their bucket, Hermit Crab had scuttled under some more seaweed, and they had lost him.

Putting down the other shell on the sand, they began searching for him. Just then, however, their Mother called them over to have an ice each, so off they raced, forgetting all about their own whelk shell as well as about Hermit Crab.

Hermit Crab found that shell presently. He explored it quickly with his claws and saw that it certainly was a bigger one, and just right for a house. So he twirled his tail out of his old home, coiled it round in the new one, and then... hitching on inside with his two short legs, he



"This shell is too tight," said the hermit crab

tucked his four long ones and his smaller claw in, too. Lastly, he shut his bigger claw across the entrance and went to sleep.

A "Shower Bath" For Jacko



Jacko had visions of a reward when a stranger and he found a necklace.

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

A Terror of the Pond. Suddenly the waters of the Long Pond churned violently. Don caught a brief glimpse of a fish as it sped by in a welter of foam.

"Probably a great water-beetle," said Farmer Gray.

"It was a fish; I saw it distinctly," protested Don.

"I don't doubt it," said the farmer. "The beetle would be clinging to the fish. Dytiscus marginalis, as these beetles are named, possess very sharp jaws. They occasionally attack a fish, and the unfortunate victim tears through the water in a vain effort to rid itself of its terrible visitor. Newts and frogs are attacked in the same manner."

The Cat Up the Tree

JOHNSON'S cat went up the tree, Which was sixty feet and three;

Every day she climbed eleven, Every night she slipped down seven.

Tell me, if she did not drop, When her paws would touch the top.

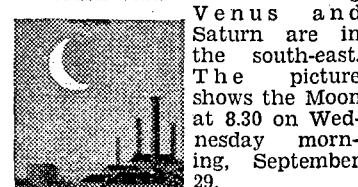
Answer next week



His spirits were rather dampened by a shower of water down his neck—

Other Worlds

IN the evening Jupiter is in the south-west. In the morning



Venus and Saturn are in the south-east. The picture shows the Moon at 8.30 on Wednesday morning, September 29.

What Your Name Means

Oliver olive
Oscar bounding warrior
Oswald divine power
Owen young warrior
Pamela all sweetness
Patrick noble

YES!

WHAT do you keep, yet never see?

Does this apply to you?

Yes, tis the same for you and me—

A promise, that is true!

Unfair

BLACK was reading a letter from a wireless firm.

"Well, I never!" he cried to his wife. "I bought our radio on the pay-as-you-can plan and now they want me to pay when I can't!"

Children's Hour

BBC Programmes from Wednesday, September 29, to Tuesday, October 5.

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 The Pied Piper of Hamelin. 5.30 Book Review. N. Ireland, 5.30 Peter Comes in from the Farm. North, 5.0 The Adventures of Alfie (2); Hobbies. Scottish, 5.0 Arran on the Air; The Prince and the Provost; Songs; Provosts and their Ways—a talk; Story; Violin; Another Grandpa Ginke Story. Welsh, 5.0 Fresh Fields; Junior Radio Record.

THURSDAY, 5.0 The Black Wherry (3). North, 5.0 Young Artists.

FRIDAY, 5.0 A Cow on the Line—a story. 5.15 La Belle France—a talk.

SATURDAY, 5.0 Effie the Trolley Bus—a story; Minstrel Show; How I Learned: Running, by Jack Holden.

SUNDAY, 5.0 The Railway Children. Midland, 5.0 Pirates' Creek (6); Ballet Music You've Liked; Country Talk. North, 5.0 On the Banks of the Dove—Adventures in Izaak Walton's country.

MONDAY, 5.0 Biffer. 5.15 A Norman and Henry Bones Adventure. N. Ireland, 5.0 Another Mr Murphy and Timothy John Story; I Want to be an Actor; Nature Diary; Songs; Piano. North, 5.0 The Black Riders.

TUESDAY, 5.0 The Family from One End Street. 5.25 Nature Parliament. North, 5.0 A Nursery Sing-Song; The Brydons' Summer Holiday.

Spills From the Garden

WHEN the perennial plants like Michaelmas daisies, chrysanthemums, and so on, have finished flowering, it is usual to cut down the stems. But do not throw them away, as they make excellent spills.

Trim off the side shoots from the stems and then tie the stems into bundles and put them aside to dry, when they can be cut into suitable lengths for spills. These spills give a steady light for quite a long time.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

What Town Is This?
Bolton

M	I	L	K	B	E	A	K
O	B	A	S	I	S	E	
O	B	Y	A	N	K	E	
N	O	M	A	D	I	M	P
A	U	K	A	M	P		
E	R	R	P	L	O	T	S
A	D	A	G	I	O	V	E
S	L	A	P	E	L	A	
T	O	S	S	A	L	T	



He's impossible,
dyspeptic, rude
—needs a course
of Benger's Food

When your digestion is out of order, practise what is known as Rest-Therapy—rest your digestion for a while and take a course of Benger's Food at night. "Bengers" is rich nourishment, pre-digested. It soon soothes and strengthens the digestion back to normal.

Keep a tin of **BENGERS** in the house.
From 2/- a tin at all Chemists and Grocers.

"Bengers" is a regd. trade mark of Benger's Ltd., Holmes Chapel, Cheshire 2.

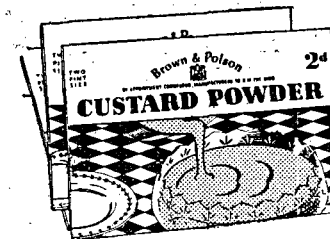
Many women do not realise that cornflour is the principal ingredient in all custard powders. Naturally, Brown & Polson Custard Powder has always been manufactured with Brown & Polson Cornflour

which is acknowledged to be the finest in the world. And having begun the mixture so well, we have, of course, taken special care to blend and flavour it so that you will like it best.

Still not enough to go round, though we're making all we can.

Now you know

why you'll be
eager to try



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